UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Mr. Bishop

DATE: 7-14-71

FROM: M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: FRED J. COOK
AUTHOR OF "THE FBI NOBODY KNOWS"

Tolson
Felt
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Soyars
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

D.C.

SYNOPSIS:

Cook is well known to the Bureau and [redacted] New York jo[redacted] who has specialized in reporting [redacted] crime and has written several books and numerous magazine articles. [redacted]

articles for "The [redacted] have been critical of the Bureau, indicated the FBI was guilty of "framing" Hiss and which were sympathetic to Remington. One article was a review of "Masters of D[redacted] wherein Cook did not attack the Director's views but asserted Mr. Hoover was attempting to discourage original thinking in the country.

In 1947, we furnished Cook material for a series of newspaper articles on hijacking and [redacted]

Bureau for having done little to combat organized crime and asserts that the Director was against the establishment of a national crime commission. [redacted] He criticized the Director and the

In 1968, he was one of a group of persons signing an advertisement against the war in Vietnam and indicating they would not voluntarily pay income taxes which were being used in financing the war. [redacted]

of Mr. Hoover for having taken FBI employee studen[redacted] In an article publishe[redacted] in 1970, Cook was critical of John Jay College of Criminal Justice and American University. He was also critical of the Bureau and the Director in a recent book and an article prepared for "Lithopinion" magazine. Cook was born in Point Pleasant, N.J., and his income is derived primarily from free-lance writing.

RECOMMENDATION: CC in P.F.

For information.

1 - Mr. Mohr 1 - Miss Gandy

M. A. Jones to Bishop
RE: FRED J. COOK

DETAILS

Fred J. Cook is well-known to the Bureau and [redacted] New York journalist who has specialized in reporting on crime and has worked primarily with "The New York World-Telegram and Sun." He is the author of books and numerous magazine articles.

INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

[redacted] He authored an article entitled "The FBI" which appeared in the 10-18-58, issue of "The Nation." This article was highly critical of Mr. Hoover and the FBI and sought to picture the Bureau as inefficient and a menace to American freedom. [redacted] This article took up this entire issue of "The Nation."

Cook had written critically concerning the Bureau prior to the appearance of above article in 1958. He had an article in the 9-21-57, issue of "The Nation" which was entitled "Hiss: New Perspectives On the Strangest Case of Our Time." This was an extremely prejudiced article which inferred that the FBI had been guilty of "framing" Alger Hiss. He later expanded this material into a book which was published under the title "The Unfinished Story of Alger Hiss." It has been reported that Cook was a good friend of Alger Hiss. With regard to the William Remington case, Cook wrote an extensive article on this case which appeared in the 12-28-57, issue of "The Nation." He entitled this article "The Remington Tragedy: a Study of Injustice." This article, of course, was most sympathetic to Remington.

Cook had an article in the 1-25-58, issue of "The Nation" which was entitled, "Boris Morros: Hero of a Myth." This article was highly critical of Morros, who was a Bureau informant. The 5-24-58, issue of "The Nation" carried a review of "Masters of Deceit" by Cook. In this review, Cook did not attempt to attack the Director's views, but rather asserted that by writing this book Mr. Hoover was attempting to discourage original thinking in the country.

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M. A. Jones to Bishop
RE: FRED J. COOK

Bufiles reflect that in March, 1947, Cook contacted the Bureau relative to his writing a series of articles on hijacking for "The New York World-Telegram and Sun." Material concerning six cases was furnished Cook and the articles appeared in that newspaper in May, 1947. [redacted]

In September, 1952, we cooperated with Cook in furnishing him material for use in preparing an article on car theft rings. This article appeared in the November, 1952, issue of "The Reader's Digest."

[redacted] In connection with an article that he wrote for the 10-31-59, issue of "The Nation," entitled "The Shame of New York," he was invited to appear on David Susskind's "Open End" TV program. His collaborator in writing this article, Eugene Gleason, a reporter for "The New York World-Telegram and Sun," also appeared on this program. During the interview by Susskind, Cook told of an alleged bribery offer by a New York official which had been reported to him by Gleason. [redacted] Cook had claimed on the television program that he had reported the bribery attempt to his "World Telegram" superiors; [redacted]

In an article entitled "Gambling, Incorporated," which appeared in the 10-22-60, issue of "The Nation," Cook indicated that he was in favor of the creation of a Federal Crime Commission to fight syndicate-controlled professional gambling in this country. He was most critical of the Director in this article for "never tackling the big-league American underworld," and for "throwing his impressive weight against any attempt to create a centralized federal agency to battle syndicated crime."

In a highly distorted article entitled "J. Edgar Hoover--The Reluctant Dragon," which appeared in the February, 1962, issue of "Climax" magazine, a sensational-type publication of very limited circulation, Cook stated that the FBI and the Director have done little to combat organized crime and that the Director had gone to great effort to squelch attempts to establish a national crime commission. He

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also stated in this article that "self-portrait of Hoover as a reluctant dragon has been tarnished by a couple of well-defined tendencies: ...acquisition of virtually unchallenged power, a capacity to lap up praise on one hand and to explode in fury whenever criticism rears its unlovely head on the other." Generally speaking, this article was a rehash of previous articles critical of the FBI and the Director by Cook.

On 5-28-61, Cook appeared on an NBC broadcast which was moderated by Dave Garroway. Cook was interviewed concerning a book on organized crime which he had written, entitled "A Two Dollar Bet Means Murder." Cook stated during this program that the FBI and Mr. Hoover had made no real effort to fight organized crime in the United States. Cook made similar assertions on a Mike Wallace TV program on 6-15-61, indicating that organized gambling controls a "politician" and that "John Edgar Hoover is the best politician of them all."

A newspaper article dated 1-30-68, contained an advertisement from a group called the "Writers and Editors War Tax Protest." It indicated that individuals signing the advertisement believed that American involvement in Vietnam is morally wrong and that none of them would voluntarily pay the proposed 10% income tax surcharge and that many of them would not pay 23% of the current income tax which was being used to finance the war. Cook was one of the persons listed as a signer.

On 1-3-69, United Press International identified "Fred J. Cook, Englewood, N.J., author," as a member of a board of a new National Committee to Investigate Assassinations. Former Special Agent William W. Turner and James Garrison, District Attorney in New Orleans, Louisiana, were also listed as members of this Committee. The news item indicated that Cook had written for "Ramparts" magazine, a highly controversial publication which has very little standing and can be generally described as anti-establishment.

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[redacted]

The 11-30-70, issue of "The Nation" has an article by Cook entitled, "John Jay: College for Cops." This article indicated that because professors at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York and American University in Washington, D. C., offered the hypothesis that Mr. Hoover had outlived his usefulness, the FBI jerked its employee students out of both institutions. In essence, this article is a lengthy discourse on the objectivity of John Jay [redacted]

Cook is the author of a recent book entitled, "The Nightmare Decade, The Life and Times of Joe McCarthy." This book is a concentrated attempt to indict, convict and sentence former Wisconsin Senator Joseph R. McCarthy to an ignominous place in history. It has numerous references to the Director and the Bureau which have been in the public realm since the McCarthy hearings of nearly 20 years ago.

The Summer, 1971 issue of "Lithopinion" magazine, published by Local One, Amalgamated Lithographers of America, contains an article entitled "J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI" by Cook. This article is extremely hostile to the FBI and Cook calls Mr. Hoover "the one untouchable autocrat in nearly 200 years of American governmental history." Out files reveal that in 1950, the Bureau conducted a security-type investigation of this Union. [redacted] The Bureau's inquiries revealed that there were communists in the Union but it was not communist dominated.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Bufiles reflect that Cook was born 3-8-11, at Point Pleasant, New Jersey. He attended Rutgers University and worked on several small newspapers in New Jersey before joining "The New York World-Telegram and Sun" in 1947. He resides at 722 Fernmer Avenue, Interlaken, New Jersey. His income is derived primarily from free-lance writing.

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